

**Attendees:** Annie Simpson (cochair, USGS, notetaker), Deirdre Remley (FHWA), Chris Holdren (BOR), Gina Ramos (BLM), Hilary Smith (DOI Invasive Species Coordinator and NISC Liaison), Joe Divittorio (BOR, retired), Julie Kraft (speaker, NAISMA), Mary Ann Rondinella (cochair, FHWA), Ron Moering (SD-DA), Sean MacDougall, Steven Manning (IPC), Terri Hogan (NPS), Valerie Vartanian (US Navy).

**Presentation: Play Clean Go Program and an overview of NAISMA**

(Julie Kraft, NAISMA Communications/Outreach Coordinator)

- NAISMA was previously known as NAWMA; the group has grown recently to include all parts of the invasive species management issue and enable its members to gain knowledge through educational opportunities. NAISMA currently has 235 members and 350 on their listserv.
- Their marketing and outreach program is in charge of how to promote the prevention of and educational opportunities about invasive species.
- The NAISMA Play Clean Go Program is basically a boot and outdoor equipment cleaning ad campaign, modifiable for the type of activity (Bike Clean Go, Hike Clean Go, etc.).
- Play Clean Go has five basic, easy-to-memorize steps:
  1. Drain, clean, and dry your gear and boots
  2. Burn local or certified firewood
  3. Use weed-free hay
  4. Stay on the trails
  5. Before leaving, remove mud and seeds
- Anyone can join the effort at <http://www.playcleango.org>
- If you have questions, or would like to support Play Clean Go, please call Julie Kraft at 307-367-4728

**Open discussion and round table check-in by participants**

- DOI Invasive Species Coordinator & NISC Policy Liaison (Hilary Smith)

As the new Department of the Interior Liaison to the National Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Coordinator, Hilary was hired by DOI in October to fill the position formerly held by now-retired Gordon Brown. Her background as an invasive plant specialist is with The Nature Conservancy and most recently the Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program (APIPP), which under Smith's leadership became New York State's first Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) in 2008. APIPP has since become the model for seven more PRISMs across that state.

  - Update on Hilary's current initiatives:
    - Newly-formed DOI Invasive Species Task Force (to guide implementation of the new DOI Invasive Species Action Plan) held its inaugural meeting March 24; Plan has 5 strategies and 25 actions to implement over the next two years.
    - In response to an October 2014 White House directive to DOI and NISC agencies to work with states and tribes to develop a National Framework for Early Detection Rapid Response to invasive species and a plan for emergency response funding, Hilary is co-leading with NISC staff a federal workgroup and has formed a nonfederal advisory team (from NISC's ISAC). DOI representation includes BLM (Gina Ramos), NPS, FWS, USGS; also NOAA; USDA FS (Mike Ielmini); USDA APHIS; EPA; DOS; and DHS. The approach includes building on existing conceptual frameworks, such as the FICMNEW EDRR Framework generated in 2003, and not recreating the wheel. There will be future opportunities to participate. The emphasis will be on natural areas; and the Framework will be linked to the Climate Resiliency Initiative as well. Deadline is September 30. If interested in learning more, contact Hilary.
  - The Secretary of the Interior Secretarial Order on Fire Prevention, Management and Restoration includes nine strategies to address fire and invasives in 2015, 2016 and beyond. One of the

strategies involves implementing large scale treatments of cheatgrass and other invasive grasses in the West. The invasive species part of the initiative is led by BLM with USGS, FWS and USDA FS support and other agency participation as well.

- Terri Hogan (National Park Service)  
Terri is also new to the NPS Invasive Plant Program Manager position (previously held by Rita Beard) and part of the Exotic Plant Management Team program, based in Fort Collins CO.
  - Invasive Plant Program manager for last 8 months.
  - NPS is at the beginning of a strategic planning process (Exotic Plant Management Team).
  - Adopted BLM's National Invasive Species Management System (NISMS) for monitoring weeds; have been submitting data for 12 months so far. Hope to expand it to other species (vertebrates, invertebrates).
  - Terri is involved with the new EDRR National Framework effort that Hilary leads.
- Ron Moehring (State Weed Coordinator, South Dakota Department of Agriculture)
  - Has been making use of the Play Clean Go program in his work.
- Chris Holdren (Bureau of Reclamation)
  - Chris has been BOR's acting FICMNEW rep for the past year; his program is currently searching for a new invasive species coordinator.
  - Zebra/Quagga mussels is BOR's strongest current focus, as aquatic systems are their mandate
  - BOR has also been working with salt cedar beetle throughout western states.
- Joe Divittorio (former BOR FICMNEW representative, now retired)
  - Joe provided the group, at Chris' request, a historical BOR perspective: there are 5 regional western offices and smaller area offices; the invasive species coordinator is dedicated to using IPM concepts in the realm of aquatic invasive species.
  - Joe is staying active in the invasive species science community, after retiring in January 2013.
  - Invited to write a chapter for Dr. Wai Hing Wong's upcoming book, *Biology and Management of Invasive Quagga and Zebra Mussels in the Western United States*.
- Mary Ann Rondinella (DOT Federal Highway Administration, FICMNEW cochair)
  - Works in Environmental and Realty Technical Services and is based in Lakewood, Colorado. She largely works on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), highway traffic noise and hazardous waste issues.
  - Looking forward to working with Annie, the new FICMNEW cochair.
  - Introduced Deirdre Remley, Environmental Program Specialist with FHWA's Office of Project Development & Environmental Review in Washington, DC.
  - DOT (like BOR and USGS) is not a land management agency, but supports land management goals and has many vegetation management educational materials available.
- Valerie Vartanian (Pest Management Coordinator, NBVC Pt. Magu)
  - First time caller. Previously active with TNC in the '90s; worked on horticultural species and habitat restoration after *Arundo donax* removal.
  - Pt. Magu installation, where she now works with installation biologist Bill Hoyer, includes one of the Channel Islands, San Nicolas.
  - Extensive programs are in place at Navy to prevent the spread of invasive species, but there are ongoing challenges, such as effects of using contaminated wooden packing crates.
  - Three major plant pest control partners in the Channel Islands region (TNC, NPS, Navy) are working together to develop a joint Biosecurity Technician position who will inspect cargo going to and from the islands and provide education to all the stakeholders.
  - Referred to the St. Louis Declaration of 2002, a historical document with Voluntary Codes of Conduct for horticulturalists  
<http://www.fleppc.org/FNGA/St.Louis.htm>

- Steven Manning (Invasive Plant Control, Inc.)
  - Partnering with Garden Club of America to promote jointly-developed Weed Wrangle Partnerships, to include Invasive Plant Councils, national, state, municipal and county parks, and a wide array of land managers including the Nashville Zoo, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Belmont University, Lipscomb University, etc.
  - Weed Wrangle 2015 in February hosted upwards of 1,000 volunteers and attendees for all of the week's events, including 500 weed pullers at six natural areas surrounding Nashville.
  - Weed Wrangle 2016 hosting commitments have already been received from Chattanooga, Memphis, Knoxville, & Nashville, TN, and Pittsburgh PA .
  - Garden Club of Nashville will have a Weed Wrangle Cookbook online by September 2015, allowing any city in the country to emulate this educational approach.
  - Weed Wrangle key to success is that garden clubs are excited about it and offer an excellent tool for reaching homeowners about invasive species issues. View highlights and details on IPC's evolving webpage at: <http://www.invasiveplantcontrol.com/nisaw15.html>
  - EDDMapS also created a Weed Wrangle Web Page: that links to the "how to" video presentation <http://bugwood.blogspot.com/2015/02/weed-wrangle-template-for-engaging.html>
  - Steve requests FICMNEW endorsement for the Weed Wrangle Program.
- Gina Ramos (Senior Weed Specialist, Bureau of Land Management)
  - BLM is now using the bio-pesticide D7 (which is now registered with the EPA) in Research and Demonstration plots. BLM will be coordinating with its field offices and the National Interagency Fire Center to identify sites for D7 treatments starting this fall.
  - ACK55 has not yet been submitted for approval; we will let everyone know when it is.
  - There will be a workshop hosted by the USFWS and DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, "Using Weed Suppressive Soil Bacteria in Rangeland Restoration," on 04-05 August, in Denver, CO.
  - BLM's Vegetation Treatment Programmatic EIS is expected to be published soon; expect updates on this at future meetings.

**Future meeting schedule**

- Annie explained that there is a possibility of moving the meeting to later in the day to encourage more participation by those who reside in more western time zones. Should the time change, it will be announced weeks prior to our next meeting.

## Possible Acronyms List

Term/Acronym	Meaning <i>[note that some acronyms in this list may not appear in this document]</i>
ACK55	Bioherbicide <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> strain ACK55
APHIS	Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture
APIPP	Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
BLM	Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior
BOR	Bureau of Reclamation, Department of Interior
CO	Colorado
D7	bioherbicide <i>Pseudomonas fluorescens</i> strain D7
DHS	Department of Homeland Security
DOE	Department of Energy
DOI	Department of Interior
DOS	Department of State
DOT	Department of Transportation
EA	Environmental Assessment
EAB	Emerald Ash Borer
EDDMapS	Early Detection and Distribution Mapping System
EDRR	Early Detection Rapid assessment and Response
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FACA	Federal Advisory Committee Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation
FICMNEW	Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious Exotic Weeds
FS	Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior
IPC	Invasive Plant Control, Inc.
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
ISAC	Invasive Species Advisory Committee (FACA Committee of NISC)
MOU	Memorandum Of Understanding
NAISF	North American Invasive Species Forum (formerly Weeds Across Borders)
NAISMA	North American Invasive Species Management Association (formerly NAWMA)
NAWMA	North American Weed Management Association (former name, now NAISMA)
NBVC	Naval Base Ventura County, Department of Defense
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization, generally not-for-profit
NISC	National Invasive Species Council
NISMS	National Invasive Species Management System (Bureau of Land Management)
NOAA	National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Agency, Department of Commerce
NPS	National Park Service, Department of Interior
NY	New York
OESHA	Office of Environment, Safety and Health Assessments, Department of Energy
PA	Pennsylvania
PRISM	Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management
SD-DA	South Dakota Department of Agriculture
TN	Tennessee
US	United States
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USGS	United States Geological Survey, Department of Interior
WAB	Weeds Across Borders (now called North American Invasive Species Forum)